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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Bangladesh, Canada, Japan, Monaco and the Philippines: draft resolution

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4]

Recalling its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[5] 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995 and 52/82 of 12 December 1997,

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights[6] and its five-year review, the International Conference on Population and Development[7] and its five-year

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[4] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[5] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (iv).
[6] A/CONF.157/24.
[7] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

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review, the World Summit for Social Development,[8] the Fourth World Conference on Women[9] and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[10] as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of disabled persons,

Also recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1997/19 of 21 July 1997 on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, 1997/20 of 21 July 1997 on children with disabilities and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/31 of 17 April 1998 on the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a "society for all",

Concerned, however, that improvement of disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues have not been significant enough to impact the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive policies, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for data collection and compilation on populations with disabilities,

Realizing that information technology provides new possibilities for improving accessibility for disabled persons and for facilitating their full participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations to promote information technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a "society for all",

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and welcomes the initiatives of Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations for the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

2. *Encourages* Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to take concrete measures for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, social services and safety nets, and training and employment in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

3. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the United Nations Statistics Division in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data collection systems, as needed;

4. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage in public information campaigns, by, with and for persons with disabilities, with a view to combating and overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities and to further their full and effective participation in society;

5. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including all human rights treaty bodies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-

[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13.

[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

governmental organizations and institutions, to work closely with the United Nations programme on disabled persons in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

6. *Further urges* Governments and the United Nations system to give special attention to the rights, needs, and welfare of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes;

7. *Encourages* Governments, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to fully implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities identified in resolution 52/82 of 12 December 1997;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue supporting initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and in their efforts to mainstream persons with disabilities in development cooperation, both as beneficiaries and decision makers;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue implementing plans to provide a barrier-free environment, as well as information in accessible format and communication services;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.